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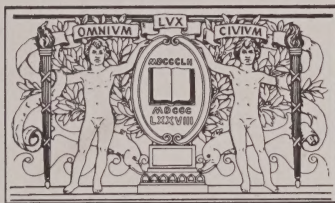
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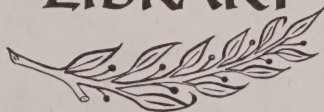
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Election Fact Sheet on:

PROMOTIONAL STANDARDS FOR BOSTON'S STUDENTS

prepared by Citywide Educational Coalition in cooperation with the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

Q. DO BOSTON'S SCHOOLS HAVE ANY TESTS THAT A STUDENT MUST PASS BEFORE BEING PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE?

- A. No. The student's teachers recommend promotion based on a student's class performance, report cards, attendance, and, in some cases, test results. Parents are consulted in this decision.

Q. ARE MANY STUDENTS KEPT BACK?

- A. In June, 1982, 7,329 of Boston's 59,561 students, or 12%, were kept back. In some grades, many were kept back; in others, very few.

Grade 1	581 or 14%	Grade 4	117 or 3%
Grade 7	989 or 21%	Grade 5	83 or 2%
Grade 9	1713 or 29%	Grade 12	128 or 4%

Q. IS BOSTON GOING TO ADOPT PROMOTIONAL STANDARDS?

- A. Almost certainly. The Superintendent has publicly stated he is in favor of promotional standards and has formed a committee of parents, teachers, administrators, testing experts and representatives from business, universities, and the community to make recommendations to him.

Q. WHEN WILL STANDARDS BE ADOPTED?

- A. After the School Committee approves the recommendations put forward by the Superintendent. Some policies will probably be distributed and field tested this year with a view toward implementing them as soon as possible.

Q. WHAT STANDARDS ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

- A. Students would be promoted if they met at least three of these four standards:

- 1) *Results of tests*: a student would have to pass an exam in June based on curriculum objectives.
- 2) *Satisfactory report card*: passing grades in English and math and most other subjects.
- 3) *Results of the Degrees of Reading Power (DRP) test*: a student must show that he or she can read material of a certain degree of difficulty with good comprehension. Each grade will have its own level of difficulty to master.
- 4) *Attendance*: required school attendance, probably between 80-90%.

If a student failed to meet three of these four standards, his or her case would be intensively reviewed to see if an exemption should be made: poor health, too many substitutes or teachers in one year, incompetent teaching, etc.

Q. HOW DO BOSTON STUDENTS PERFORM ON NATIONAL TESTS?

A. Metropolitan Test, April, 1983

In this test, Boston's students are compared to other urban students across the country. In Boston, 32,600 students took the test. Twelfth graders, students absent on test day, and many bilingual and special needs students were not tested, a total of about 16,200.

The average Boston student reads and does math at about the fiftieth percentile. The ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders do less well with scores dropping to:

READING	Grade 9	38%	MATH	Grade 9	30%
	Grade 10	36%		Grade 10	36%
	Grade 11	40%		Grade 11	38%

SAT Scores, 1982: Scholastic Aptitude Test/College Boards

About 1500 Boston students took this test. The minimum score you can get is 200, and the maximum score is 800. The *average* scores for Boston students were:

verbal	362	math	407
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Q. WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST PROMOTIONAL STANDARDS?

A. Students will be punished for poor teaching.

Dropout rates will go up.

Failure will damage a student's self-esteem.

Unless a student's second year in the same grade is very much better than the first year, he or she fails again.

ASK THE CANDIDATES:

- 1) DO YOU FAVOR ENDING "SOCIAL PROMOTIONS"?
 - 2) HOW WOULD YOU INSURE THAT STUDENTS AREN'T PUNISHED FOR POOR TEACHING?
 - 3) WHAT WOULD YOU LIST AS STANDARDS FOR PROMOTION?
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